

As to the method claims, each is directed to “[a] method for suppressing abnormally hyperactive BMP-4 signalling”, through pharmaceutical administration of a claimed peptide. For the same reasons advanced with respect to the request for rejoinder of the peptide claims to one another, the therapeutic method claims should logically also be rejoined to one another. Further, the same logic prevails with respect to rejoinder of the antibody claims, each of which is directed to a molecule specific for one of the claimed peptides.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, rejoinder of the claim groupings is requested as follows:

1. Rejoinder of nucleotide Claims 1 and 2 (Group I); 7 and 8 (Group IV); 11 and 12 (Group VI); and, Claims 16 and 17 (Group IX), into a single group for examination (MPEP §803.04).

2. Rejoinder of peptide Claims 3 and 4 (Group II); 9 and 10 (Group V); 13 (Group VII); and, 18 and 19 (Group X) into a single group for examination (MPEP §803.04). *If so rejoined, the claims of this rejoined group would be elected by Applicants.*

3. Rejoinder of the nucleotide claims of paragraph 1, and the peptide claims of paragraph 2, into a single group for examination (MPEP §803, *et seq.*). *If so rejoined, the claims of this rejoined group would be elected by Applicants.*

4. Rejoinder of antibody Claims 5 and 6 (Group III); 14 and 15 (Group VIII); and, Claims 20 and 21 (Group XI), into a single group for examination.

5. Rejoinder of therapeutic method claims 20 and 21 (Group XI); 22 (Group XII); 23 (Group XIII); 24 (Group XIV); and, 25 (Group XV), into a single group for examination.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this Response, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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